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Obey IN SOLON SPRINGS FOR UPDATE ON Water PROJECT

Federally Funded Work Intended to Improve Local Sewer System

SOLON SPRINGS, WI - Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) was in Solon Springs today to witness the official signing of the agreement between the Upper St. Croix Lake Sanitary District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the design and completion of necessary sewer system upgrades and for an update on the planned work. Obey secured \$118,500 in federal funds last year for the Northern Wisconsin Environmental Assistance Program - also known as "Section 154" - to allow the Corps to work on the project.

"The basic building blocks for community growth, like access to clean water, good roads, and efficient sewers, can cost local taxpayers a lot," said Obey. "That's why we created the Northern Wisconsin Environmental Assistance Program to help promote economic development and ease the squeeze of sewer and water projects like this for Northwoods taxpayers, and I'm glad to be here today to see first hand how the Corps and the District plan to move forward."

"For what we spend on the war in Iraq every minute, we could pay for four of these projects," Obey added. "That just goes to show you how much we could be doing here at home if we weren't stuck in this misbegotten war."

The federal funds are intended to allow the removal of failing black iron flanges and rods and their replacement with stainless steel components in the grinder pumps that connect the nearly 300 households in the Upper St. Croix Lake Sanitary District to the Village of Solon Springs sewer collection system. It is anticipated that work on the project will be completed by this October.

Section 154 - the Northern Wisconsin Environmental Assistance Program - was created by Obey in 2000 to help Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas and Iron counties finance work for repairing,

expanding and upgrading water related infrastructure, including wells, sewer systems, dams, and wastewater treatment facilities. Over the last few years, Obey has secured more than \$34 million for projects under this special authority. Projects funded by the program are selected by a special committee composed of representatives from the local counties and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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